

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. *(Currently amended)* A method for imparting antiviral properties to a hydrophilic polymeric material comprising preparing a hydrophilic polymeric slurry, dispersing an ionic copper powder ~~mixture containing~~ consisting essentially of water-insoluble copper ~~euporous oxide and cuprie oxide~~ in said slurry and then extruding or molding said slurry to form a hydrophilic polymeric material, wherein said water-insoluble particles ~~that~~ release both Cu⁺⁺ and Cu⁺ and are directly and completely encapsulated within said hydrophilic polymeric material.
2. *(Currently amended)* A method according to claim 1 wherein said ionic copper powder ~~mixture~~ is prepared by oxidation-reduction.
3. *(Original)* A method according to claim 2 wherein said reduction is carried out using formaldehyde as a reductant.

Claims 4-19 (*Canceled*)